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REMARKS

Claims 1-62 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons. The present response is for the purpose of responding directly to the Office Action mailed December 30, 2002.

The specification has been objected to for containing several informalities. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for pointing out the inaccuracies in the specification and has adopted the Examiner's suggestions.

Applicant submits that this response and the response mailed October 16, 2002 constitute a full response to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2002. Accordingly, all pending claims 1-62 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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1/20/03
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning on page 10, line 13 has been amended as follows.

The oil that the four-way valve 110 diverts [into the] through the third tube 114 into the hose 156 will apply pressure to the enlarged end 164 of the pin 152 as described above to automatically activate the latch assembly 20 to maintain the lid 14 in the closed position. The oil that the four-way valve 110 also diverts into the through the third tube 114 into first oil area 94 applies pressure to the bottom of the first piston 84. At this point, the first valve 100 in the first piston 84 and the second valve 102 in the second piston 88 are not open. Therefore, oil in the second oil area 96 cannot escape, and the first piston 84 and the second piston 88 will raise together. The first piston 84 is connected to the inner telescoping rod 82, the stanchion support plate 62, the stanchions 60 and the press plate 16. The reversible cylinder 18 therefore places pressure on the press plate 16 at A (Fig. 7), thereby pushing the dough upward within the chamber 90 towards the lid 14. Accordingly, the press plate 16 will thereby squeeze the dough and remove all air in the chamber 90 as the first piston 84 and the second piston 88 rise. The dough will therefore spread out and completely and uniformly fill the remaining area within the chamber 90 of the hopper 12. At this point, the pressure in chamber 90 and the first oil area 94 begins to rise until it reaches a predetermined pressure at which point the first valve 100 in the first piston 84 begins to open and continues to open until the pressure rises to a predetermined level. At the predetermined level, the first valve 100 opens, thereby allowing oil to flow from the first oil area 94 to the second oil area 96. Furthermore, the first piston 84 and the associated press plate 16 will stop rising. Preferably, the third tube 114 includes a delay device 250 that slows the flow of oil from the four-way valve 110 to the first oil area 94, such that the oil flowing through the hose 156 activates the latch assembly 20 before a sufficient amount of oil flows into the first oil area 94 such that the press plate 16 moves upward. Therefore, the driving of the press plate 16 towards the lid 14 is delayed such that the latch assembly 20 is activated a predetermined amount of time before

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the press plate 16 is driven towards the lid 14. Preferably, the delay device 250 includes a flow restrictor in the third tube 114 between the area where the third tube 114 is connected to the hose 156 and the first oil area 94.

The paragraph beginning on page 11, line 11 has been amended as follows.

Once the first valve 100 in the first piston 84 is opened, the oil will flow into the second oil area 96 and exert pressure on the second piston 88, thereby moving the outer telescoping rod 86 and the second piston 88. The outer telescoping rod 86 is connected to the knife assembly support plate 68, the knife assembly supports 66 and the knife assembly 64, and the knife assembly 64 rises with the second piston 88. The outer telescoping rod 86 therefore raises the knife assembly 64, causing the knife assembly 64 to sever the dough into the desired number of pieces. The knife assembly 64 continues to rise until it reaches the lid 14. At this point, the pressure between the first piston 84 and the second piston 88 rises until either an external relief pressure is achieved or a cracking pressure of the second valve 102 is reached. The external relief pressure is a predetermined pressure which can be set by a user of the dough divider 10 whereby the four-way valve 110 will stop the flow of oil to the reversible cylinder 18 and allow the oil to return to the hydraulic oil tank 48. If the second valve 102 is cracked, the oil will flow freely through the reversible cylinder 18, thereby stopping the rise of the first piston 84 and the second piston 88. Although the oil is flowing freely through the reversible cylinder 18, the press plate 16 is still being forced against the bottom of the first piston 84 and the second piston 88. Therefore, the first piston 84 and the second piston 88 will still be pushed upward. Consequently, the press plate 16 will [be] continue to be driven towards the lid 14, although the press plate 16 does not move upward. Accordingly, the latch assembly 20 will continue to be activated. Moreover, the second piston 88 should not be dead headed at this point, so that the knife assembly 64 can extend 1/32 to 1/16 inches past the top of the rectangular flange 28 of the hopper 12. This knife assembly 64 is set this way to insure a complete cut of the dough. Since the oil that the four-way valve 110 diverts into the through the third tube 114 into the hose 156 will automatically activate the

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latch assembly 20 to maintain the lid 14 in the closed position as described above, the latch assembly is automatically activated to maintain the lid in the closed position when the press plate or the knife assembly is moved towards the lid.